

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated May 11, 2005. Claims 1-7, 11, 13-19, and 22-24 remain pending in this application. Claims 1, 11, 13, 15, and 22 are the independent claims. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that Claims 1-7, 11, and 13-19 are allowed and Claims 22-24 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Applicants have so amended Claims 22-24 and respectfully believe them to be in condition for allowance at this time.

On the merits, the Office Action rejected Claim 8-10, 12 and 20-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Applicants respectfully believe the cancellation of Claims 8-10, 12, and 20-21 render the rejection moot and respectfully request its withdrawal.

The Office Action also rejected Claim 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph for lacking antecedent basis. Applicants respectfully believe that the amendment to Claim 24 renders the rejection moot and request its withdrawal.

Further on the merits, the Office Action rejected Claims 20-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over

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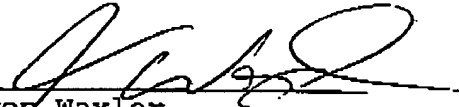
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Carmean et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,669,003; hereinafter "Carmean") in view of Conary et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,481,731; hereinafter "Conary"). Applicants respectfully believe the cancellation of Claims 20-21 render the rejection moot and respectfully request its withdrawal.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached by telephone at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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July 6, 2005